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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

**APR 06 2004**

**OFFICIAL**

Date: April 6, 2004

**TO: Examiner Long Pham (703) 872-9319  
Art Unit: 2814**

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Subject Matter: 09/ 996,864 Attorney Doc: 67,200-600

Message:

Total number of pages sent: - 9 - (including this cover sheet)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

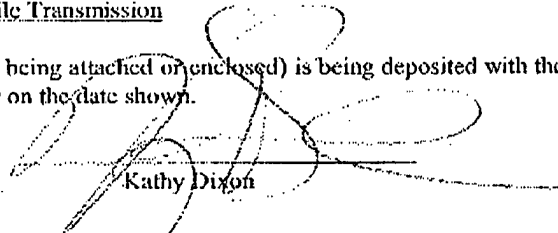
First Named Applicant: Cheng-Ku Chen	<b>RECEIVED</b> <b>CENTRAL FAX CENTER</b> <b>APR 06 2004</b> <b>OFFICIAL</b>
Application No.: 09/996,864 (CONF 4851)	
Filed: 11/19/2001	
Title: Hard mask trimming with thin hard mask layer and top protection layer	
Attorney Docket No.: 67,200-600	Group Art Unit: 2814  Examiner: Long Pham

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

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Date: April 6, 2004

  
Kathy Dixon

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of February 6, 2004, please amend the application as follows, and consider the following remarks.